

As a non-traditional student I face the challenges of a full school load along with finding time to earn a supplemental income. With a busy schedule and a foundation located in the Billings area it has been a wonderful opportunity to earn a great science based education from MSU-Billings. I have had the good fortune to work with great professors and classmates without having to move myself or my family to a different city to attend another university. I have a great support network established in Billings which allows me to continue my education however; the environment in which I study in is uncomfortable and out of date. Much of the furniture is the original furniture from 1946 or 1976 when some of the building was last remodeled. Over crowding has also become an issue with a growing student body and no more room for expansion. Along with the overcrowding much of the equipment must be shared among many students which create time restraints and pressure on both the faculty and students. The expansion of the MSU-Billings science building would allow students such as me to earn a high quality science education in Billings and be prepared for today's job market. A new science facility at MSU-Billings would meet the technological, space and equipment needs to prepare students for graduate or professional programs around the state along with providing eastern Montana an experienced workforce.

*Mark Zell*